Staff augmentation

How to effectively select a partner and get your project off to a good start

Hello

Are you looking for **extra resources to bring your project to life?** Need development support while you're backfilling roles in your team? Looking for an expert in a particular language or development field? Here's where **staff augmentation can be highly effective,** but it's important to **ensure that you're going about it the right way.**

This article is for you if:

You're looking to use staff augmentation to boost your team

You want to find out what qualities to look for in a prospective agency partner

You want to understand how best to ensure that an extended team works well with your existing staff

Why 10Clouds?

We have experience in supporting a vast range of clients as part of their extended team - we've worked with start-ups and enterprises all over the world

Agile working is our bread and butter, meaning that we can effectively accommodate any unnecessary changes and still ensure efficiency

We pride ourselves on quality assuring everything we work on to ensure that we're delivering seamless products and user journeys
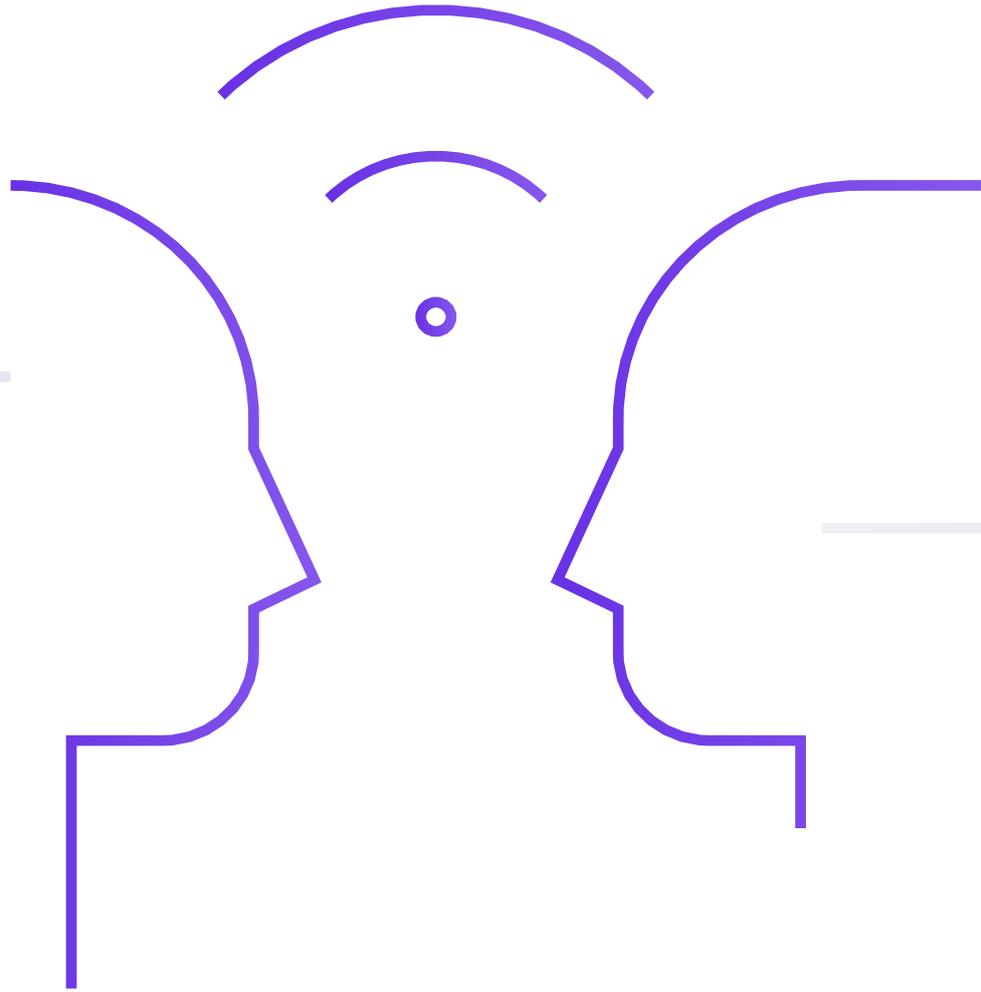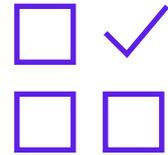
" There are a number of things to take into account when selecting the right staff augmentation partner for your company.

10CLOUDS Team

Assessing your needs

It seems obvious, but at the beginning, the main question to ask yourself is - what does your company actually need?

Digital projects come in a whole range of varieties, and when planning, it's important to be as specific as possible, while bearing in mind that priorities and scope can change. Consider addressing as many of the following as possible in your original brief.

01.01

Outline of project

01.02

Platforms - iOS, Android or both

01.03

Initial planned budget

01.04

Target audience

01.05

Stage of creation

i.e. an MVP, a new element or an iteration of an existing project, something else?

01.06

Languages

Do you have a specific language in mind that you would like to use?
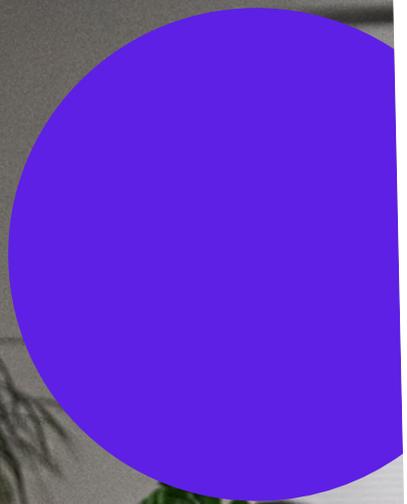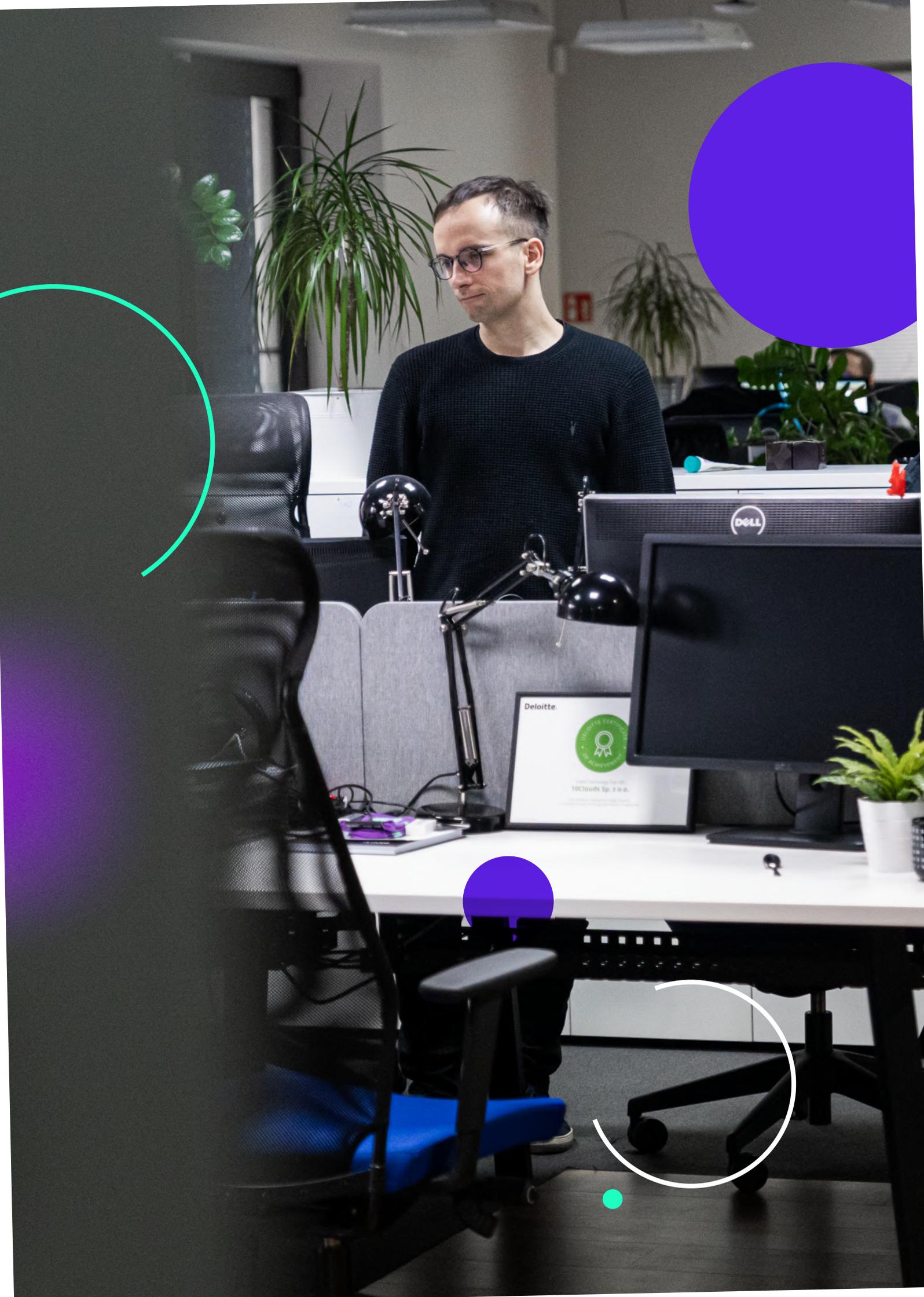
01.07

Company's current resources

In light of the above, what existing resources are you looking to allocate to your project? What outstanding resources do you think you are still likely to need?
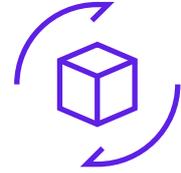
01.08

Temporary or Permanent

Finally, do you need to feel you need to set up a temporary software division for this project, or might you actually need more permanent staff?

Selecting your partner - experience

Once you've made a shortlist of potential partners - we would recommend having five that you will thoroughly check, it is worth beginning by evaluating their portfolio.

It's important to pay close attention to both the types of projects undertaken, and the types of clients, looking for some similarities with your own work. Read LinkedIn articles, Clutch and Behance reviews, Glassdoor feedback and any other platforms that are relevant to the project that you're undertaking. You're looking for a partner that you can rely on, so it's important to do as much research as possible. If you have the contact details of a prospective agency's past clients, do reach out to them directly if you think it could be useful.

Selecting your partner - technical expertise
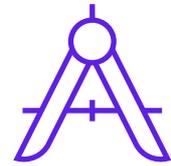
Equally important as past experience, is technical expertise. Look back on the brief that you created above, and check whether the agencies on your shortlist have the exact technical expertise that you're looking for.

If a particular development language is important to you, now is the time to check that your prospective partners are proficient in using it. It's worth also asking questions about the other tools and communication platforms that each of the prospective agencies uses.

Selecting your partner - cultural fit

Ensuring that your prospective partner is the right cultural fit, is also a very important element of the selection process. Get to know each of your prospective partners in as much detail as possible. Here are some important things to take into consideration:

04.01

Is there a language barrier?

04.02

Do they provide regular updates?

04.03

How will any potential difference in time zones affect your work?

04.04

What sort of communication tools and platforms do they use?

Getting your project off to a good start

Once you have selected your staff augmentation partner, and they have agreed to work with you on your project, it is paramount that they are brought up to speed with work in an efficient manner.

They need to have a full understanding of product, processes, tools and communication. It may be useful to appoint a Facilitator, who can be either somebody in your company, or in the partner agency - they can organize the onboarding process and ensure that everyone is on the same page. The process usually involves:

05.01

A kick-off meeting

05.02

A scoping session

05.03

Knowledge transfer

05.04

Tools and process configuration

05.05

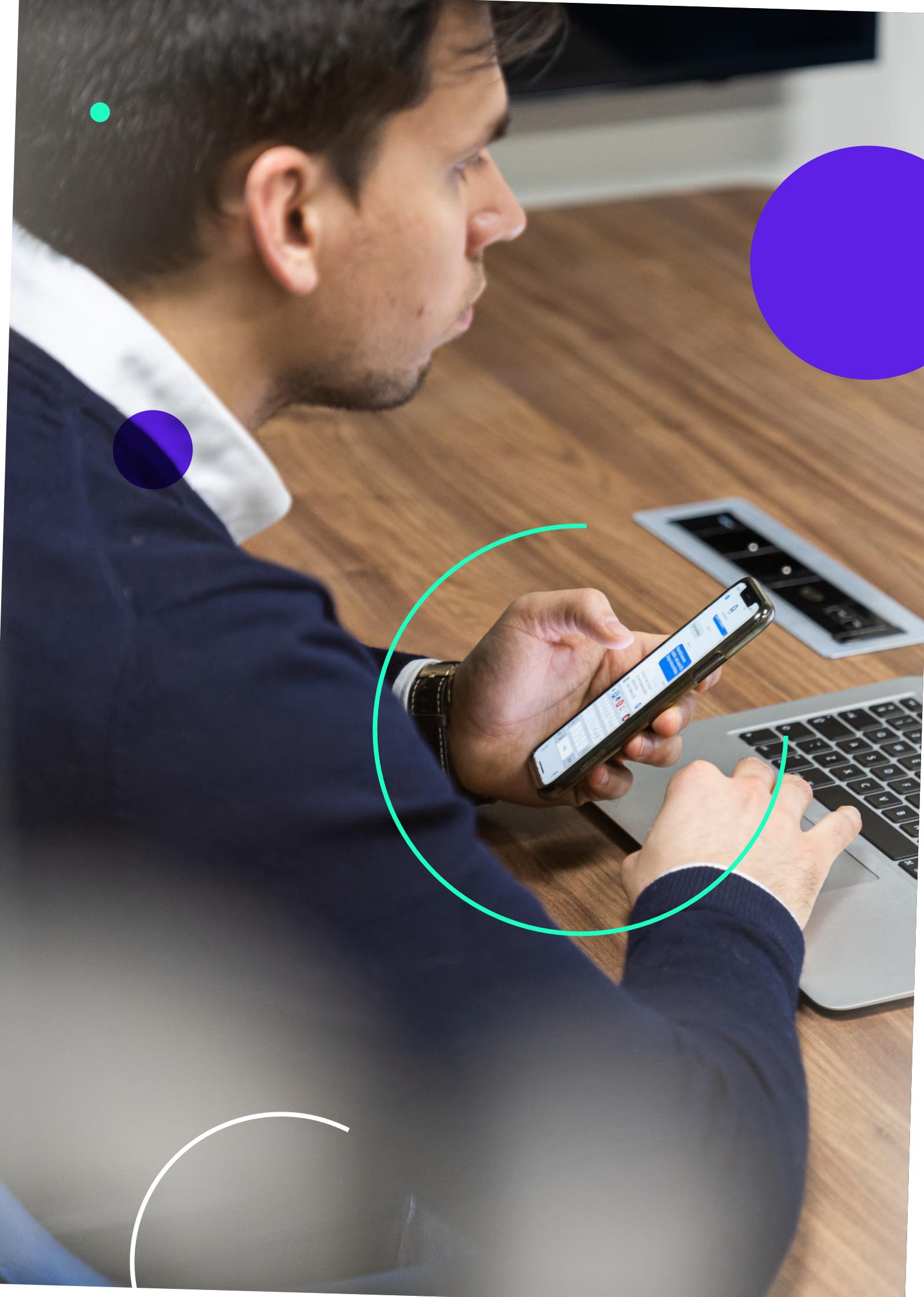Setting cooperation standards in the project

05.06

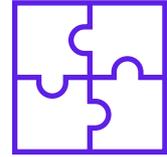Implementing relevant elements of Scrum framework

05.03

Preparing documentation

05.04

Creating the definition of 'done' and confirming quality constrictions

How we manage staff augmentation at 10Clouds

At 10Clouds, when we provide a full, dedicated team as part of staff augmentation, we assume to be using Scrum to manage development work.

04.01

Delivery at every Sprint

Delivering working, potentially releasable pieces of software often, and performing frequent inspections

04.02

Adapting to changing requirements

to developing user or business needs, as well as improving the way we work, every sprint.

04.03

Transparency

in terms of collaboration, communication, understanding of the scope and mission behind the project

04.02

Focus on quality

Continuously improving the development process within Scrum teams, as well as adopting company-wide best practices.

To manage work on a cross-team level we may adopt one of below approaches depending on your needs and the nature of your organization:

06B.01

Communication

We tailor the communication approach, reporting and backlog management to our clients standards

06B.02

Clear team structure

With a small integration part which consists of Tech Lead, Scrum Master, QA specialist and Proxy Product Owner (if needed) to provide consistency

06B.02

Proper managment

In case of component teams within the same project or feature teams within the same programme, we make sure that teams share a Tech Lead, Scrum Master, Proxy Product Owner or QA specialist. This ensures better communication and enables us to easily track dependencies between teams.

**Looking to start
a new design project?**

We can help. Just contact our friendly team on
hello@10clouds.com and we'll get back to you
as soon as possible.